

The Open Space and Trails Committee met on Thursday, November 6, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. at Seabrook City Hall, 1700 First Street, Seabrook, Texas to discuss and if appropriate, take action on the agenda items listed below.

THOSE PRESENT WERE:

Helen Burton	Chair
Sally Antrobus (excused absence)	Vice-Chair
John Coggeshall	Member
Monica Comeaux	Member
Debra Harper	Member
Karen Tisdell (excused absence)	Member
David Popken	Member
Meredith Brant	Assistant City Secretary

ALSO PRESENT:

Gayle Cook	City Manager
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**1.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no comments.

**2.0 PRESENTATION**

**2.1 Update of city plans by the City Manager. (Cook)**

Ms. Cook spoke concerning the CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) process which, for the first time, will include park and trails projects. The Plan is for projects valued at \$5,000 or more and is typically for infrastructure. She stated that she would like for Open Space members to create a comprehensive list of no more than ten projects to be accomplished over the next five years. The items should include a description, location and cost of the project based on feasibility.

In addition to plans for the CIP, Ms. Cook spoke of the proposed plan to connect the east and west side trails and the option of seeking out special funding. She added that in talks with TXDoT, the possibility of a connector going under SH 146 was denied.

Ms. Cook stated that currently, a new subdivision on Lake Mija will connect to Park Rd. Other expansion projects include two new apartment complexes and a PUD on Meyer Rd.

Concerning the expansion of SH 146, Ms. Cook stated that the railroad has not yet responded to requests for acquisition of rights-of-way, although they have agreed to work with the city and keep up communication with the city.

Ms. Cook stated that if Carothers does not ultimately work out as an event venue, she would like to look at the possibility of Carothers as a nature center in partnership with

other entities. This would help build toward a recreation area and summer youth programs.

Ms. Burton stated that due to time constraints, she would like to take agenda items out of order and discuss Item 3.2 first, ending with Item 3.1.

### **3.0 BUSINESS**

#### **3.2 Consider relocation of benches currently located near the library and subject to graffiti.**

Ms. Burton stated that the benches at the library which were on city property have now been moved to the warehouse and are awaiting the committee members' input for placement. Several suggestions were made, but it was determined that members would look around and bring back exact location suggestions at the next meeting. Ms. Burton stated that she would measure the benches and send out dimensions to members.

#### **3.3 Happy Hikers event scheduled for November 15.**

Ms. Burton stated that she would purchase the snacks for the hikers. Mr. Popken, Ms. Antrobus, Mr. Coggeshall and Ms. Burton will work the break station in two shifts.

#### **3.4 Consider advisability of a dog park. (Comeaux)**

Ms. Comeaux stated that Ms. Antrobus had suggested that focus should be more on the Parks and Trails plans, rather than creating new projects such as a dog park. Ms. Comeaux stated that she had been in touch with the county concerning maintenance for the Bay Area Dog Park and was told that park staff and volunteers take care of clean-up and maintenance. She stated that her source had also told her a dog park would be a big hit with citizens and earn kudos for Council. Ms. Burton suggested that partnering with a pet-loving organization would make a dog park more desirable. Mr. Popken stated that he would get in touch with some organizations and report back next month.

#### **3.5 Update on acquisition and planting of trees. (Coggeshall)**

Mr. Coggeshall stated that the trees are in the ground. He added that he had two other sources for trees.

#### **3.6 Update on meeting with city staff. (Burton)**

Ms. Burton reported that once the Parks Department has an auger they will begin installing the poles for the emergency markers in the parks and along trails. She added that Ms. Cook is working on a grant with Dow for replacement of playground equipment for Pine Gully Park.

#### **3.7 Consider the area around the sea gulls in Pine Gully Park. (Burton)**

Ms. Burton explained that the area around the seagulls has been cleaned out. This was initially intended as a sensory garden, but maintenance and watering has been an issue. The Parks director advised that options would be to install trail granite or to plant some hearty shrubbery which requires little maintenance.

Motion was made by Ms. Harper and seconded by Mr. Popken

To plant white, Indian hawthorn around the seagulls.

AYES: Comeaux, Harper, Popken.

NAYS: Burton.

ABSTAIN: Coggeshall.

MOTION CARRIED BY MAJORITY VOTE.

### **3.1 Consider prioritizing parks and trails “wish list” including capital improvements.**

Ms. Burton asked each member to explain his/her priorities for the “wish list.”

- John Coggeshall: ~ Better connectivity of trails (details in Attachment 1)  
~ Irrigation for trees  
~ Kayak ramp (between 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> streets )  
~ Trees along overpass on SH 146 at Red Bluff
- David Popken: ~ Wetlands should be a priority  
~ Find points of access to the water
- Debra Harper: ~ Outdoor classroom in Meador Park  
~ Expand McHale Park  
~ Baybrook Park parking lot beautification and misting station  
~ Increase parking at Hester’s Park  
~ Design grate to go over lower Todville ditches
- Monica Comeaux: ~ Focus on safety along Todville with additional lighting  
~ Place stop sign at Red Bluff and Park Road
- Helen Burton: ~ Increase parking at Hester’s and Robinson Parks  
~ Plant shade trees  
~ Irrigation to ensure survival of new trees  
~ Consider location for a kayak ramp  
~ Restore trees at SH 146 and Red Bluff

Ms. Antrobus had previously submitted her priorities which shall be attached to these minutes and labeled Attachment 2.

Ms. Burton asked Ms. Brant to send out priorities mentioned and members should categorize items based on “over \$5,000” and “under \$5,000.”

### **4.0 ROUTINE BUSINESS**

**4.1 Update on recent and ongoing park activities and improvements.**

There were no updates. Ms. Harper stated that she will be cutting back overgrowth at the butterfly garden and would welcome anyone's help.

**4.2 Approve the minutes of the October 2, 2014 meeting.**

Motion was made by Mr. Popken and seconded by Mr. Coggeshall

To approve the minutes as written.

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

**4.3 Consider Action Items Checklist which is attached and made a part of this agenda.**

#5 – Upon completion of the new trail, a new trails map and brochure will be published.

#12 – No new volunteers; ask LeaAnn to re-advertise on the website.

#13 – Mr. Coggeshall is not actively working on project at this time. Ms. Burton stated she would get in touch with Mr. Fosdick to see if he could provide the graphics for the variety of birds one might see along the trails.

#14 – This item is on hold.

**4.4 Consider Action Items Checklist for Staff which is attached and made a part of this agenda.**

The list for staff was reviewed and no tasks were added to the list.

**4.5 Consider agenda items and upcoming meeting dates including the January meeting which falls on New Year's Day.**

The next meeting will be December 4. Items from this agenda which will be considered at the December meeting are Items 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4 and 3.6.

Upon motion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m.



*Meredith Brant*  
Meredith Brant  
Assistant City Secretary

*Helen Burton*  
Helen Burton, Chair